

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03
SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /097 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1955
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LONDON 04953

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, PORG, CY, ICAO
SUBJECT: GREEK CYPRIOTS PUBLICIZE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
DISPUTE

1. ACCORDING TO BIERMAN IN MARCH 25 GUARDIAN, GREEK CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLICIZED THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL DISPUTE IN A MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS, ASSERTING "ACTIVITIES OF UNAUTHORIZED TURKISH-CONTROLLED FLIGHT INFORMATION SERVICE" HAVE CAUSED TWO NEAR-COLLISIONS AND COLLISION IS LIKELY.

2. GUARDIAN STORY, DATED MARCH 24, ALSO REPORTS TURKISH CYPRIOT DENIAL AND CONTINUES, "TONIGHT THE GREEK CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES LET CORRESPONDENTS HEAR A TAPE RECORDING OF THE MOST SERIOUS OF THE TWO ALLEGED INCIDENTS. A GREEK CYPRIOT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER, ON DUTY IN THE SMALL HOURS OF YESTERDAY MORNING, WAS HEARD ORDERING

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A SAUDI ARABIAN DC-10 PLANE TO DIVE FROM 33,000 FEET TO 29,000 FEET, APPARENTLY TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF COLLISION WITH A SECOND SAUDI JET, A DC-8, AT A POINT ABOUT 40 MILES NORTHEAST OF THE SOUTHERN CYPRUS COAST. AT NO TIME YESTERDAY WERE TWO SAUDI JETS IN THE SAME AIR-SPACE, THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SPOKESMAN SAID EARLIER. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CYPRUS COMMUNICATIONS MIN-

ISTRY, MR. PANAYOTIS KAZAMIAS, SAID THERE WAS A TWO-MINUTE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO PLANES' ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL OVER THE SAME CONTROL POINT AT THE SAME HEIGHT, WHEREAS INTERNATIONAL SAFETY REGULATIONS PRESCRIBED A TEN-MINUTE MINIMUM. THERE WAS A VERY SERIOUS DANGER OF A MID-AIR COLLISION MR. KAZAMIAS SAID." SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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